Government Department/Offices notified vide Circular No. 1/18/88-CS-III of DoPT dated 1st April, 1989.

6. The permanent employees declared surplus will have to exercise option for special VRS within three months from the date he or she has been declared surplus in any Ministry/Department. Surplus employees presently on the Rolls of the Surplus Cell (Redesignated as the Division of Retraining and Redeployment) of the Department of Personnel & Training as on the date of this OM can also opt for special VRS within three months from this date.

7. In order to facilitate the maintenance of a close watch on the implementation of the scheme, all Ministries/Departments are required to submit quarterly returns to the Surplus Cell of Department of personnel & Training that may be prescribed by that Cell.

8. Ministry of Finance, etc. are requested to give wide publicity to the contents of this O.M. to the employees declared surplus.

(Smt. Pratibha Mohan)

Director (E-1l)

Tel.: 301 3180 To

All Ministries/Departments (As per standard list).

Relaxation to some candidates in UPSC Exams

873. SHRIDINA NATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the partial modification of Union Public Service Commission's (UPSC) notice for Civil Service (Main) Examination, 1999 in Employment News dated 12th December, 1998, to provide for exemption to few aspirants to appear in Paper-I on Indian Language (Compulsory Paper); and

(b) what prompted UPSC to give such relaxation in the criteria and the reasons behind lack of uniformity for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHREMATIVASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A partial modification in the Rules for the Civil Services Examination, 1999 was

made on 29.12.1998 to allow exemption to the candidates hailing from Manipur to appear in the compulsory Indian Language paper.

(b) State Government of Manipur informed that Manipuri is not the mother tongue of a large percentage of the population of the State and requested for continuation of exemption. Government of India considered the request of the State Government of Manipur and allowed the candidates hailing from Manipur to exempt from appearing in compulsory Indian Language paper *w.e.f.* Civil Services Examination, 1999. The candidates hailing from Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim are also exempted from appearing in the compulsory Indian Languages papers and the present exemption will be reviewed after the Rules for the Civil Services Examination, 2003 are finalized.

Representation of minorities in tile selection committees

874. SHRIAIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions were issued several years back to include a repre
sentative of minorities in the selection committees/boards of each Government organization;

(b) whether Government are aware that in most of the Government organizations these instructions are not being followed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken for implementation thereof; and

(d) if not, the organizations in which the instructions are being followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCESAND PENSIONS (SHRIMAT1VASUNDHARARAJE): (a) and (d) Instructions were issued on 16th August, 1990 to provide that wherever a Selection Committee/Board exists or has to be constituted for mak ing recruitment to ten or more vacancies in Group "C or Group "D' posts/ services, it shall be mandatory to have one member belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and one member belonging to minority community in the Committee/Board. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (erstwhile Ministry of Social Welfare) has been designated as the nodal Ministry for evolving appropriate guidelines including the time frame and format for report ing compliance of these instruction. The data in this regard is being main tained by the said Ministry. The Ministry is collecting information on half-yearly basis.

(b) and (c) No specific instance of deviation from the prescribed instructions have been brought to the notice.